

[Amend claim 12 as follows:]

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12. (Once amended) A mounting plate as in claim 7 including a plurality of vacuum ports, at least one vacuum port being through each mounting area being adapted to align with a dust extraction aperture of a surface finishing pad.

Amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Once amended) A mounting plate as in claim 1 wherein each mounting area has at least one channel therein adapted to direct dust to the vacuum port or a one of the vacuum ports through the respective mounting area.

[Amend claim 15 as follows:]

15. (Once amended) A mounting plate as in claim 1 wherein the mounting areas are circular and of diameter less than or equal to 373mm.

[Amend claim 16 as follows:]

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16. (Once amended) A mounting plate as in claim 1 including hook and loop means adapted for attaching a surface finishing pad to each mounting area on the mounting plate.

[Amend claim 17 as follows:]

17. (Once amended) A mounting plate as in claim 1 comprising a plurality of layers between an external surface upon which the mounting areas lie and a rear surface, and the mounting plate including a first layer including the mounting areas made of urethane and a second layer of resilient material.

[Amend claim 18 as follows:]

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18. (Once amended) A mounting plate as in claim 1 wherein the vacuum port or at least one of the vacuum ports fits over a hollow cylindrical dust extraction peg, the dust extraction peg having an external circumferential groove, and the mounting plate including a thin backing plate with a peg aperture of diameter slightly smaller than the external diameter of the peg and adapted to receive the dust extraction peg, and the thickness and resiliency of the backing plate being such that the mounting plate may be pushed onto and pulled off the dust extraction peg and when secured relative to the dust extraction peg the backing plate resides within the groove.

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Amend claim 22 as follows:

22. (Once Amended) A surface finishing machine as in claim 20 including vacuum dust extraction means adapted to facilitate vacuum dust extraction through respective vacuum ports on the mounting plate.

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Amend claim 26 as follows:

26. (Once Amended) A surface finishing machine as in claim 20 including a base plate connected to the random orbital drive means and adapted to receive the mounting plate.

REMARKS

The present Amendment is submitted to eliminate improper multiple dependencies and to reduce the filing fee for the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,
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